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National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center

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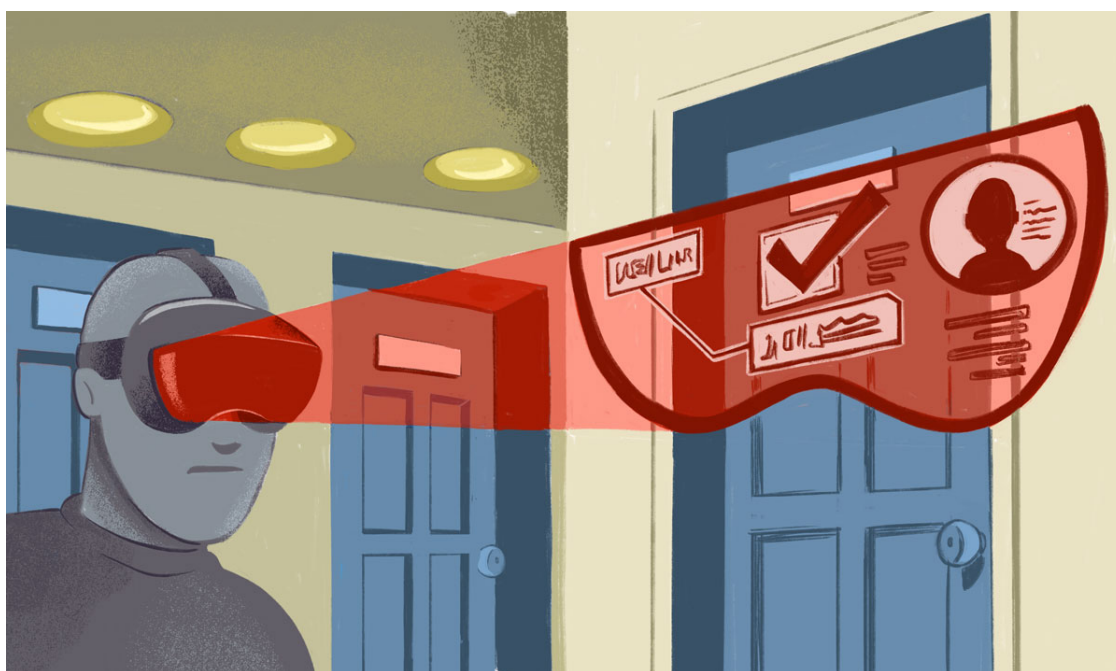
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NOVEMBER 2022

ENVISION | 22

NCITE Annual Conference



Dear NCITE Community,

NCITE held its first in-person conference in Omaha last month. Looking through the photos, tweets, speaking notes, and award recognitions from the event has overwhelmed me with gratitude.

I am grateful for the many public servants who gathered in the middle of the country for national security. So often these meetings are held in the Beltway. But ENVISION22 was different – it was held in a small-big city, where hotel rooms were well below government GSA lodging rates (though Ubers were crazily priced high), steaks were tasty, and kindness was everywhere. Guests from 13 states, Washington, D.C., and the U.K. traveled to hear about cutting-edge research, education programs, and innovative technology during two days on the Scott Campus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO).

I am grateful for senior leadership support for counterterrorism and targeted violence prevention research. The first day's events started with a Zoom from the White House and ended with guests entering the metaverse and socializing with top

university, federal, state, and local leaders. Many stayed a second day to network with students.

I am grateful for your inspiration. I won't lie, being the director of NCITE is the most challenging role I have ever had. Every day feels like the first day — that there are new problems to solve, challenges to navigate, and resources to secure. But seeing the students interact with the national security leaders, watching the look on the face of a San Diego State University student when he won a prize for his work on weaponizing fentanyl, and getting to celebrate my role model, Martha Crenshaw, were inspiring.

What you'll see below is a recap of the event with links to videos, photos, stories, and more. I envision more collaboration to come.



GINA LIGON
NCITE Center Director



ENVISION22: Recapping a Long-Awaited Milestone



They came from near and far guided by a shared mission: To better understand some of the world's most pressing problems. On Oct. 27 and 28, the National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE) hosted ENVISION22, its first in-person annual conference.

[Read the Recap](#)

NCITE STUDENTS: Reflections on ENVISION22



The mood was surprisingly light as five NCITE students sat around a long, rectangular table in the Glass House – called this because of its many windows overlooking the UNO campus – stuffing black folders for the ENVISION22 conference beginning the next day.

[Read More from NCITE Students](#)

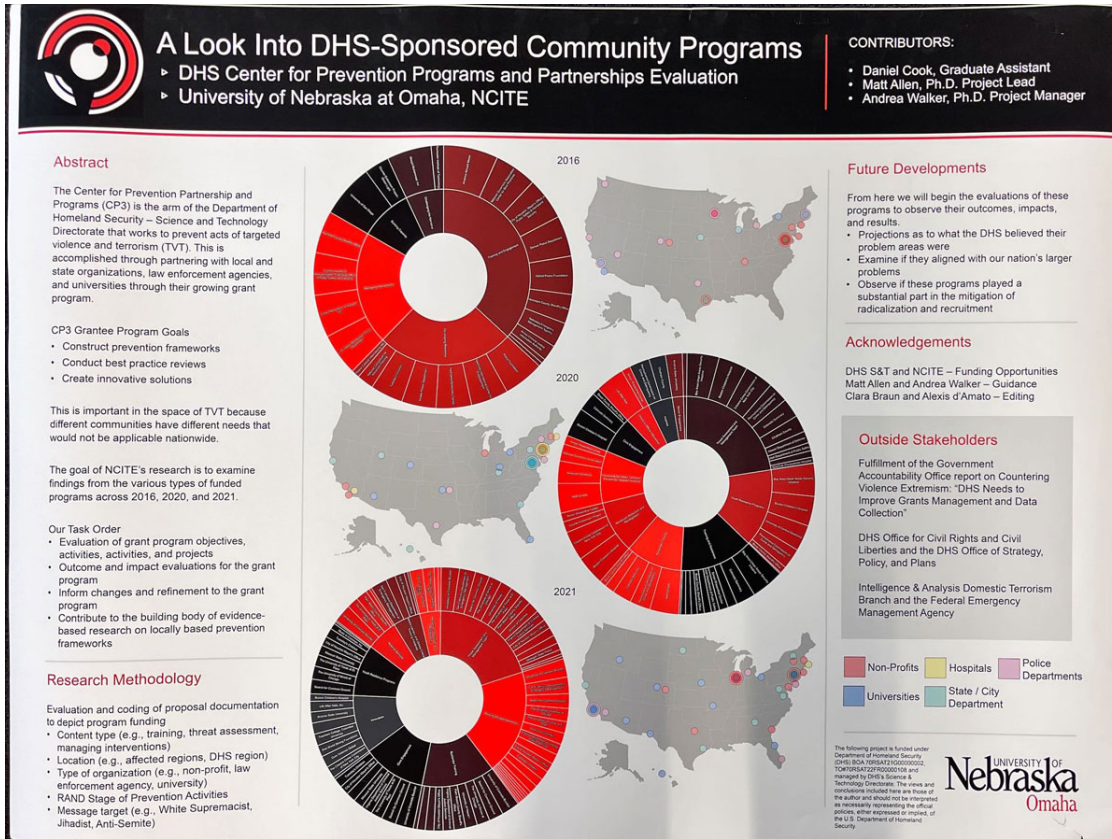
VIDEO: Sam Vinograd, Josh Geltzer, and More



Samantha Vinograd, assistant secretary for counterterrorism and threat prevention with the Department of Homeland Security, was just one of several distinguished names to speak at ENVISION22. See video of their remarks.

[See Photos and Video](#)

STUDENT RESEARCH: Posters from the Counterterrorism Workforce of Tomorrow



A Look Into DHS-Sponsored Community Programs

- DHS Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships Evaluation
- University of Nebraska at Omaha, NCITE

CONTRIBUTORS:

- Daniel Cook, Graduate Assistant
- Matt Allen, Ph.D. Project Lead
- Andrea Walker, Ph.D. Project Manager

Abstract

The Center for Prevention Partnership and Programs (CP3) is the arm of the Department of Homeland Security – Science and Technology Directorate that works to prevent acts of targeted violence and terrorism (TVT). This is accomplished through partnering with local and state organizations, law enforcement agencies, and universities through their growing grant program.

CP3 Grantee Program Goals

- Construct prevention frameworks
- Conduct best practice reviews
- Create innovative solutions

This is important in the space of TVT because different communities have different needs that would not be applicable nationwide.

The goal of NCITE's research is to examine findings from the various types of funded programs across 2016, 2020, and 2021.

Our Task Order

- Evaluation of grant program objectives, activities, and projects
- Outcome and impact evaluations for the grant program
- Inform changes and refinement to the grant program
- Contribute to the building body of evidence-based research on locally based prevention frameworks

Research Methodology

Evaluation and coding of proposal documentation to depict program funding

- Content type (e.g., training, threat assessment, managing interventions)
- Location (e.g., affected regions, DHS region)
- Type of organization (e.g., non-profit, law enforcement agency, university)
- RAND Stage of Prevention Activities
- Message target (e.g., White Supremacist, Jihadist, Anti-Semite)

Future Developments

From here we will begin the evaluations of these programs to observe their outcomes, impacts, and results.

- Projections as to what the DHS believed their problem areas were
- Examine if they aligned with our nation's larger problems
- Observe if these programs played a substantial part in the mitigation of radicalization and recruitment

Acknowledgements

DHS S&T and NCITE – Funding Opportunities
Matt Allen and Andrea Walker – Guidance
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Outside Stakeholders


Fulfillment of the Government Accountability Office report on Countering Violence Extremism: "DHS Needs to Improve Grants Management and Data Collection"

DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the DHS Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans

Intelligence & Analysis Domestic Terrorism Branch and the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Legend: Non-Profits (Red), Hospitals (Yellow), Police Departments (Purple), Universities (Blue), State / City Department (Green)

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NCITE hosted a student research poster contest, sponsored by industry partner Splunk, at ENVISION22. Students were asked to present their research findings and discuss their projects with attendees throughout the conference. NCITE's research team recognized three standout posters with awards.

[View the Posters](#)

A DISTINGUISHED CAREER: NCITE Honors Martha Crenshaw, a Legend in Terrorism Research



On the second day of ENVISION22, NCITE recognized Martha Crenshaw, director of the Mapping Militants Project at Stanford University, with our first Career Achievement Award. Dr. Crenshaw published her first article on terrorism in 1972 as a graduate student at the University of Virginia. Since then, she has published more than 40 articles, covering the ideological spectrum of jihadist suicide bombers, war in Algeria, ethnic violence in India and Sri Lanka, and more recent work on the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

MORE FROM NCITE

JOB ALERT

Another DHS Center of Excellence is hiring for two project manager positions. Full consideration date is Nov. 11.

[Apply](#)

SUMMER RESEARCH TEAM

The 2023 DHS Summer Research Team applications are live until Jan. 10. The purpose for the DHS Summer Research Team Program is to increase and enhance the scientific leadership at Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) in research areas that support the mission and goals of DHS. This program provides faculty and student research teams with the opportunity to conduct research at university-based DHS Centers of Excellence.

NCITE is currently working on communications to go out to universities within our consortium to distribute in hopes you'd have relationships with MSIs in your area. Stay tuned for information to follow.

[Apply](#)

NCITE RFP COMING SOON

NCITE is planning for its fourth research year as a DHS Center of Excellence. We plan to release our Year 4 Request for Proposals next month to give plenty of time for potential performers to develop proposals before the deadline in spring 2023. If you're interested in submitting a proposal for an NCITE project starting July 1, 2023, keep an eye on your inbox and our website for more information.

ICYMI: Research Roundup

NCITE launched its first in a series of email-blast summaries of the latest research in counterterrorism and targeted violence topic areas. These include:

- Plain-language summaries and links to new academic articles
- Updates on relevant work by members of the NCITE consortium
- A list of resources for further exploration

[Read the First Issue](#)



NCITE NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM
INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY,
AND EDUCATION CENTER

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